



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TUCSON MAN SENTENCED TO OVER 8 YEARS IN PRISON ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

TUCSON, Ariz. – Carl Harrison, 42, of Tucson, was sentenced here today to 97 months (just over 8 years) in federal prison by U.S. District Court Chief Judge John M. Roll. Harrison pleaded guilty on February 7, 2007, to one count of Distribution of Child Pornography and two counts of Possession of Child Pornography after investigators found hundreds of movies and images that depicted or dealt with minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct on computers at his home. Harrison's sentence will be followed by lifetime supervised release and requires him to register as a sex offender.

Through an investigation initiated in July 2004, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children found that Harrison was using an America On Line trader's group to download pornographic images of children. After finding hundreds of images on his home computer after a search in February 2005, Harrison admitted in an interview with law enforcement investigators that he was sexually attracted to girls age 14 to 16 years old. A subsequent search of his home in May 2005 turned up four additional computers, some of which were used to download child pornography. It was also discovered that an adult woman was living in Harrison's home along with her four minor children, ages 4 to 13.

Further forensic review of the computers seized in February and May 2005 indicated that there were a number of e-mails, both incoming and outgoing, to other e-mail addresses with attachments that were images of child pornography. As a result, a number of investigative leads were sent to other jurisdictions and so far arrests for child pornography related charges have been made in Maine, Washington, Tennessee, and Texas. All those found were apparently members of a child pornography distribution ring. Additional investigations are ongoing.

On May 24, 2006, Harrison was indicted on six counts of child pornography related charges. When the agents arrived to serve the arrest warrant on May 25, 2006, they discovered that the same woman was living at the defendant's new residence, again with her four minor children. The agents also found four additional computers in the home. Another search warrant and forensic search of the computer that Harrison used in the home contained hundreds of child pornography images, as well as images of bestiality and violence and sexual assault directed at women. Harrison was arrested that day and had been held in federal custody pending final resolution of this case. As a result of the plea agreement, three of the original six charges were dismissed.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by U. S. Attorney's Offices nationwide, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The prosecution was handled by Judson T. Mihok, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

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